# OLD GUARDS TELL FASCINATING TALES OF SING SING'S ELITE

Men Whose Crimes Involved Millions of Dollars, Prisoners Who Were Artists, Notorious Murderers and Many Others Figure in Personal Experiences Related by Veteran Keepers

VERYBODY who is anybody in New York crime or crookdom the hospital for the examination. has seen or heard of Philip Shoemaker or Orson E. Helms of Sing Sing prison's official staff.

three and four decades respectively onto the floor. looked after many famous criminals, fust have been retired by the State

Both tell fascinating stories of per sonal experiences with bank embezziers, swindlers, counterfeiters, forgers and other "idle rich." Each played a prominent part in preparing notorious murderers to die in the electric chair. They also figured in the pursuit of rison by ingenious or deredevil es-

Shoemaker's dealings with the crim inal class date back nearly twentyeight years. He joined the prison service September 18, 1891, under former Warden Prown. Helms's reminiscences go back much further. Over forty-two years have elapsed since former Warden Clark appointed him on June 8, 1877.

Gifted with retentive memories, the the Beau Brummell of Sing Sing.

geant of the guard. As such he dare to say 'No.'" toured all parts of the prison. He also

### A Malingering Rothschild.

Helms for fifteen years was detailed to the hospital. As prosperous malefactors often got into that department, where prisoners are all fed better and nobody has to work, he met most of the elty of it." prison elite there. Helms describes it was Helms who on May 8, 1893, watching David Rothschild, president silt the trougers worn by Carlyle of the Federal Bank when he stols Harris, famous murderer of Helen ness and put him to work.

Star of Hope, in the print shop.

guarded many murderers. Helms recalls how he saw three surgeons by a It was the painful task of Shos-Mary, in Canarsie, when Ennis see the body of her dead son. shammed paralysis to try to cheat the

By EDWARD T. KAVANAUGH. | called at Sing Sing on December 18 1993. Warden Johnson had Ennis transferred from the deathhouse to

The doctors put Ennis on the oper ating table and then gave him a slight angesthetic. When he was coming through the ether they lifted the mur-The two veteran attendants, who for derer off the table and let him drop

"Ennis forgot himself entirely," said Helms, "jumped up and walked away." His mind befogged, Ennis had for gotten to limp on his supposed par-alyzed legs. The doctors informed the the next day he was put to death.

Shoemaker still tells of how he tool her last meal to Mrs. Martha Place who murdered her stepdaughter, Ida in Brooklyn, the day before she was killed in the electric chair and how she seemed to relish the feast.

#### Governor Shaved by Murderer.

Some queer things have happened in Sing Sing. Shoemaker laughs about the fright Gov. Roswell P. Flower received when an irmate barber convicted of murder was shaving him during his official visit to the prison on June 7, 1892. The barber was serving a life term. While working over his distinguished customer the murtwo veteran prison attaches can tell derer, holding the razor in his hand, the acquaintance of their Governor, eyeing the razor, promised charges. Always an exquisite dresser, to look into the barber's case. The elms has for years been known as prisoner, seemingly satisfied, went on with his work. Gov. Flower, when he Shoemaker and Helms each had as- had alighted from the chair, described signments of duty that gave them ex- to Shoemaker and, other prison atceptional opportunities to mingle with taches the unpleasant sensation the renowned prisoners. For barber gave him, "When I saw that

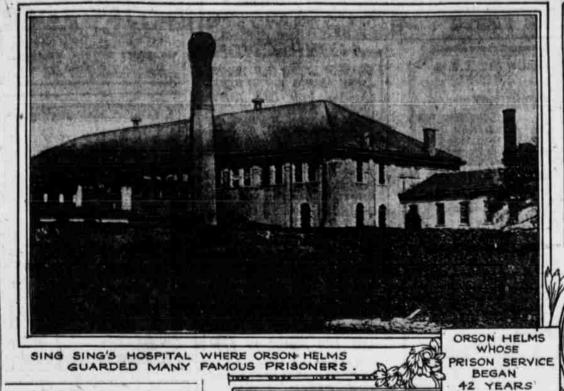
Helms says the strangest aggregasupervised visits convicts had from tion he ever saw visit Sing Sing was relatives or cronies in the visiting the Imperial High Chinese Commission. This was on February 10, 1906. Some one had told them the old legend about Sing Sing being a Chinese name. Fang Quang, the secretary, asked

chamber. "They all sat in the electric chair," said Helms, "just for the nov-

\$275,000, in the hospital until Super- Potts, so the electrodes could be apintendent of Prisons C. V. Collins plied to his legs when placed in the charged that he was only felgning ill-chair to be executed. Mrs. Harris. from a hill overlooking the prison Shoemaker tells of seeing Edwin O. kept her eyes riveted on the flagpole Quigley, Wall Street banker and on the roof of the warden's office, broker, who stole \$320,000 by forgeries. Finally a black flag hauled slowly up out the prison newspaper, the halyards flapped in the breeze. This was the signal to the curious Often performing relief duty in the mob gathered outside that the deadly deathhouse or hospital, the veterans electric contrivance had done its work and that Harris was dead.

ruse trap William Ennis, the Brook- maker to escort the distracted mother lyn policeman who murdered his wife. of Harris into the prison mortuary to

"They've murdered you, Carlyle!"



placed a plate on which was engraved "Carlyle Harris Murdered by the State of New York." Warden Durston would not permit the removal of the body until the objectionable plate was ripped off.

Shoemaker for a while rubbed elbows with Ferdinand Ward. Before he swindled his partner, Gen. Grant, and thousands of other investors with the young Ward was known as the "Napoleon of Finance." When the firm falled for \$14,000,000 and convulsed Wall Street Ward was arrested and you who's who among criminals. Each suddenly stopped and asked the Gov-sent to Sing Sing in 1885. Shoemaker affable in manner, they easily culti-ernor if he would pardon him. The saw Ward running the prison print shop until discharged in May, 1892.

George H. Pell is another "high looted the Sixth National Bank in Manhattan. Shoemaker would watch the erstwhile banker, clubman and society leader play the organ in the Pell gave up organ playing over nine years Shoemaker was ser- razor," said Gov. Flower, "I didn't and went home on a pardon November 9, 1892, Shoemaker remembers the marvel

lous organ John Howard, a prisoner spent four years in constructing in the chapel. It contained more reeds than any ever built and was boasted to be one of the finest and most melodious organs in the world,

In fact, there were only two organs In existence supposed to excel it—the "Weeks was the smartest man ever one in the Cathedral in Rome and the other in St. Patersburg. On the Weeks went out," added Shoemaker, strength of his achievement, Gov. "he had a private railroad car waiti Roosevelt pardoned Howard on June 3, to take him and his wife out West." 1899, and he went out of prison.

### Private Car for Ex-Convict.

The organ proved to be a fizzle. It played but a few tunes, and these Shoemaker looking on. Of a rancorous Howard rendered himself. "Before he disposition, the fellow was forever went out," said Shoemaker, "he quarrelling with some one in Sing did something to it, and it was a Sing. He boasted he had spent \$5,000

New York Board of Aldermen was box that left the prison on another of Shoemaker's prison ac- from getting a pardon. Albert T. Patquaintances. He was one of the three rick, convicted of the murcer of Will infamous "boodle Aldermen" who sold jam M. Rice, the millionaire, and parthe Broadway franchise for graft with doned out by Gov. Dix, exposed Montwent home October 15, 1892, after six Montgomery later turned upon Warden guards," explained Shoemaker, "took scene from the Prodigal Son on the years and five months imprisonment. Kennedy and made accusations of him to the beat to see him off for the wall of the old prison chapel Helms

ber 8, 1893, with a ten year sentence and was made prison bookkeeper. in Sing Sing," said Helms. "The day "he had a private railroad car waiting William R. Montgomery,

president of the Hamilton Bank, who was sent to Sing Sing for frenzied finance, received his company with Ex-President Henry Jachne of the once escaped nailed up in a packing to keep John Boehman, a lifer who Jachne gomery's animosity toward Boehman which he had fallen heir.

7CH interest has been aroused early return, but from another source rank of Major. He served with the in the visiting quarters. He occa- making spurious "securities" stonally saw David A. Sullivan there.

promoted the Very Rev. Mgr. James N. clergy and parishioners of his church volunteered for service and was appointed to the hospital ship Solace. In caught in the wreck. Sullivan didn't this capacity he ministered to the sol- have to use the visiting room often to Connolly has been engaged in religious diers in Cuba and Porto Rico to the see his relatives. For, as a sensational out automobiling with Warden McCor-Thus he was able to see his

> fled and afterward was bounced. There was a distinguished arrival on March 1, 1894. John Y. McKane, the political boss of Gravesend and Coney Island, was received for election frauds and debauchery. He took off his diamond shirt stud in the receiving office and gave it to a friend to take home and keep for him.

been pled out of a fortune. "Cre lawyers who claimed to have influence with the Judges or the Governor," he said, "got \$250,000 out of me by prom ising to get me freed."

McKane was a skilful wood carver and builder. He not alone was a good worker but a planner of work. He hossed the erection of several struc-ures for Warden Sage. The chapel and hospital building and the prison hose house are monuments to the politician's memory. "McKane could manage a gang of workmen fine," said

### Steve Raymond, Lifer

Shormaker was the first prison employee to greet Senator Stephen Stilwell of the Bronx when he landed there for bribery. The veteran attendant stood watch over the Senator and was the Great White Way. The patropage thoroughly familiar with his visiting

He also recalls Steve Raymond, the premium forger, pardoned July 2, 1892, by Gov. Flower after having been imprisoned twenty-three years. "He was the first man ever sent up for life," said Shoe-

Charles Ciblin, a lifer, was pardoned by Gov. Mortan June 4, 1895. He had served but : ; years of a life sentence for the murder of Madeline Goeta in Carl Fischer, a German, was par-



the Forty-second and Grand Street Ferry Railway, while its president, Gov. Flower, always generous in the use of the pardoning power, commuted Allen's sentence. He doffed his hideous stripes March 31, 1894, dressed up in the finest style and skipped out by the the main entrance to interview him.

SING SING'S RIVER FRONT

WHEN RETIRED

shammed paralysis to try to the control of the seventy estates out of \$1,500,000, was helped to bring about the warden's Helms was on duty the night Gay W. Foster, forger and swindler, admired. It was from the brush of octors commissioned by the Governor, lid Mrs. Harris had caused to be another celebrity. He was a lawyer removal. Montgomery was paroled Charles J. Williamson set fire to Sing who cleaned up \$250,000 posing as and went his way July 10, 1913, upon Sing bakeshop and got away in the miller and buncoing unsophisticated completing two years and two months confusion while it was burning down. Pennsylvania farmers. Foster was Shoemaker stood watch when Will- the \$400,000 forger of the Robert Glea- adept, while behind Sing Sing's bars. iam J. Cummins, who scuttled the Car- son gang, who cheated the Bank of Dave Crowley, former New York po-

negie Trust Company, met his relatives England and other institutions by lice sergeant, worked in the hospital Fifteen years intervened before the six months for an attack upon Mar- policemen attached to the West 177th character," said the neutriant. When the Spanish-American war too. Sullivan, convicted in Brooklyn, clusive penman was recaptured. State garet Morris in Manhattan and fin-

ing for fabulous interest on loans from \$2,000,000. He was convicted in Brooklyn, after being brought back under me for a long time," Helms explained. So also was Al Adams, the famous "policy king," who fleeced thousands. Adams lounged about the hospital for several months. The influence he exerted over prison officials resulted in a scandal that led to a

SING SING'S NORTH WALL and

WATCH - TOWER WHERE HELMS

Helms sometimes noticed Frank Elli-

son, the clubman, who assaulted Hen-

prison task in the clothing shop. W. F. Miller, known as "520 Per Cent." Miller, was an international

windler who separated people look-

riques, the New York broker, at his

change in prison physicians, Both prison officers came in contact with many murderers. They saw Dr. Robert Buchanan, who killed his wife; Patrick, who had Rice murdered to try to get his fortune; Martin Thorne, who cut up the body of William Guldensuppe for Mrs. Nack, and Aaron Halla, who killed Mamie Brannigan in a Third avenue department store witnessed Halla's execution in 1902. Just as the prisoner was being led into the execution chamber doctor fainted and keeled over off the witnesses' bench on to the floor. Warden Johnson just lifted him up," said Shoemaker, "carried him to the door and threw him out. Then he prison enclosure to the callroad track went on with the execution." Both outside. guards at times kept vigit over Roland Molineaux and Dr. S. F. Kennedy, suspected of the murder of Dolly Reynolds. Both got new trials and were eventually discharged.

### Many Have Tried Escape.

Some famous escapes have occurred in Sing Sing with which Shoemaker and Helms are thoroughly familiar. When Shoemaker reached the prison on the morning of August 22, 1892, he keepers and convicts were moving saw a body wedged between two bars about near by, he ripped the rear plate of an upper window at the south end off the lock. of the stone cell block. During the bolt. In another instant the big gate night Charles Vincent, a convict, had swung open. Blaine closed it behind broken out of his cell. In a revolver him, hurried down the railroad tracks battle with the keepers he was shot and made off. Before the slam and killed while trying to squeeze sounded he was riding safely away or through the small window. James a freight train. Shoemaker, Helms Welch, an accomplice, managed to get and others joined the search for him outside, but was shot, wounded and but it was all for naught. Three recaptured before he had got far.

murderers, escaped from the penitentiary. There was a beautiful painting of a death house in a raging rain storm his offence there State Detective Jack the night of April 20, 1893. It was son brought him back to his of supposed that they had made a clean haunts and made him finish the "hit

hole, were fished out of the Hudson River. The prison officials decided that they had shot one another in a dispute in a rowboat as to whether to proceed across the river in the awful gale or turn back.

Pallister's body was taken to the south gate. Shoemaker took four prisoners from the jobbing shop and moved it to the execution chamber. where prison officials and Mrs. Pal lister, the slayer's mother, identified t. Helms the morning of the death house "break" relieved Keepers Huise and Murphy, whom the murderers had

overpowered, disarmed and locked in the cells they vacated. Shoemakar passed out the rifles to posses of prison employees to en-able them to chase Big Bill Green, chronic jail breaker, and three other convicts when they assaulted Keeper Gormley and jumped into the Hudson River trying to escape in 1913. Dr. H. E. Mereness and Keeper Me-Clelland, in a dory, were the first to overtake the fugitives. Dr. Mereness with a rifle kept firing at the swimming convicts until they surrendered.

### One Successful Getaway.

The oddest getaway Sing Sing ever had was that of George W. Carter, When he had finished a term in Blackwell's Island jall be went back there the next night and robbed Warden Louis Pillsbury's residence. For this he was sent to Sing Sing. He strangely vanished on June 6, 1892 Believing Carter was stowed away "Miller was a patient in the hospital inside the walls Warden Durston made Helms and other keepers search the yard for fifteen consecutive nights. But no trace of him was found. Three years later Keeper Thomas Coultry discovered a cavern Carter had dug secretly under the shoe shop boiler room. In it he had stayed until the warden had called off the search, evidently, and then got out at night over the river fence. When the durout was found in it was the food water bottle, tea, tobacco and newspapers Carter had left behind him Nobody ever has seen him since.

The boldest getaway in the prison? Big Ben, the prison siren whistle which had just been installed to give mlarms, roared out just before non on May 13, 1897, the news that some ne had escaped from Sing Sing.

It was Blaine. There was then of the cell block leading from Blaine, falling in behind company of prisoners marching lockstep through the yard, fell when he reached the passageway. With a hammer he smashed one

the padlock that locked the inner stee gate under the arch and passed through. Quickly throwing off h suit of stripes, beneath which he wor civilian clothes he stole somewh he ran to the outer gate. This was blade of a large pair of shears, while months later Blaine was located Thomas Pallister and Frank Roehl, ing enother sentence in an Indian When he had expiate

### The Cops' Garden

HE high cost of living has not time," replied the citizen, as he conbeen such a serious problem tinued picking the flowers. street station. When the Police De- you'll soon learn differently." A pepartment took possession of the build-partment took possession of the build-and told to go out and arrest the ching, which formerly was occupied as izen. When the man was brought idea of utilizing some of the ground as the desk, he then awoke to the faca garden.

The building is located on the old before a Magistrate and fined \$3 on \$ Aliman estate. The grounds extend charge of petty larceny. and best. A goodly array of the best "uptown" talent joined with the "vil- from Haven to Northern avenue, and lagers" in giving an extemporaneous from 177th to 178th street. Police-and delightfully spontaneous divertissement that was really unique. that was really unique. been on the force for upward of superexcellent cuisine was twenty-eight years, is the official gar-A superexcellent cuisine was twenty-eight years is the same on a promptly and courteously served, dener. He began five years ago on a Dancing was enjoyed on a spacious small scale, but now he raises enough have learned to respect to a floor to the exotic strains of the vegetables to supply the needs of his in the matter and they do not famous Mill orchestra. The entire eve- own family and most of the men atning in fact was just one grand blare tached to the station. The crop this of merriment that made one's pulse jump with the sheer joy of being alive. Interesting — and very usable — peppers, carrots, lima beans, tomatoes, has a hobby, and I think the souvenirs were given to both ladies beets, lettuce, string beans, parsnips, gave utterance to that pure of merriment that made one's pulse year includes green corn, peas, scal-Policeman Hammer says that gar- what he was talking about

the form of a soldler's campaign bat, dening is his hobby and that in this a Sun reporter. "My hour which when opened disclosed a dainty case he has a chance to exercise it. dening. I cannot began to powder puff and mirror. The gentle-He works for the city, and at the men received a handsome bronze fin-same time he can give his attention looking after our little par ished bust of Gen. Pershing in the to his pet hobby. He keeps the gurden I have often wished I to form of a paper weight.

The Mill has been completely renovated for the new season, and its artistic arrangement and unique scheme of decoration please the eye, while the festooning of lanterns with which the Mill is lighted adds to the distinct cohemian flavor that permetically desired to the part of town. The principal flowers, and if I do a large variety of sizes and colors.

I have often wished I could now in the suburba so I could my desire to cultivate a gard flowers, which is one of the show sights of that part of town. The principal flowers are asters, of which there is a large variety of sizes and colors. distinct cohemian flavor that perme- a large variety of sizes and colors.

When friends of the men visit the station Policeman Hammer takes great delight in presenting to them a large bouquet to take home. The flower beds are on the western part of the grounds and they are the grounds and they are the grounds and they are the grounds. rant, with a long line of hat trees running down the centre. by any enclosure, which often leads check and turned to the hat tree privilege to help themselves, but the these flowers!" eagle eye of the lieutenant on desk

### Cost Him 83.

along and he so admired the flowers lucky one to take home same with all the hats on the true, that he thought it would be quite the which he looked into one by one until lee had looked into all excepting a black derby, which he did not inspect, and told him to step, with a warning took possession, has pro-

nd looked into it; and, good gracious! erty, and I guess I can help myself to almost worship the sa-

a police station and that these arounds He smiled as he put it on. He had are rented by the city?" replied the it is a fine thank "!

as it might have been to the guys who thinks he is a privilege that he had made a serious mistake and still more so when he was taket

Policeman Hammer does not aller

"It has been said that wer, man Reeman Hammer's reply t

The yield of the and

say that this is due times, when the supply One day last week a man came men draw lots to see w

a great thing for the ne "My friend, don't you know this is he surprised to see look

Captain Abe Huise, wi

table delleacies.

## Pope Honors Major Connolly

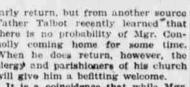
title of Right Reverend Monsignor. The elevation to this high rank is conthrough which the work of the Catholie chaplains was directed and regu-

Mgr. Connolly is the rector of the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel. Ninetieth street, between Second and Third avenues, and is one of the most widely known priests in New York. When he left New York almost two years ago for France as Vicar-General to the Most Rev. Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes, who was the auxiliary Bishop at the time, he held the rank of Papal Chamberlain, a title conferred on him some years ago.
On his arrival in France with the

first contingent of field secretaries sent overseas by the Knights of Columbus established communication with Gen. Pershing, commander of the A. E. F., with a view to ascertaining the needs of the American Army in the matter of Roman Catholic chaplains. All during the war the Monsigner and General kept in touch, with the result that the American front was never lacking in a sufficient number of chapains to look after the spiritual needs of soldiers of the Roman Catholic faith.

After he had completed the organization of a central headquarters for chaplains and found sufficient time to get away from the usual routine work. Mgr. Connolly visited the American front and personally supervised the work of the chaplains. Later he paid a visit to Italy and journeyed over the Italian front. When this trip had een completed he went to Rome and had a private audience with Pope Benedict. The latter seemed particularly anxious about the welfare of the American soldiers and the Monsigner assured him that everything possible for their spiritual and temporal needs had been done.

Returning from Italy Mgr. Connolls once again resumed active charge of his office in Paris. At present he i see actively engaged in work pertaining to his office that the date of his teturn to the United States is uncer-In his last letter to the Rev Iames J. Talbot, who is administering the affairs of the Good Counsel parish the Monsigner made no mention of an



It is a coincidence that while Mgr. work all his life he nevertheless has sidered by Mgr. Connolly's many seen more military service than proba-

circles by the announcement there is no probability of Mgr. Confrom Rome that Pope Benedict has return, however, the local return, however, however, howev

in local Roman Catholic Father Talbot recently learned that Twelfth for eighteen years.

end of the war.

With the approval of Gov. Whitman friends in New York a reward for his bly any other priest in the United Adjt.-Gen. Sherrill in December, 1917, mick. labors in organizing the Roman Catho- States. Years ago he was appointed Mgr. Connolly a chaplain on folks whenever and wherever he lie chaplains sent from the United chaplain of the Twelfth Regiment, his staff, making him the senior chap-States for work with the American National Guard, and served in that lain of New York State. He is also livan was ordered shut up inside the States for work with the American National Guard, and served in that and in the state Chaplains Asserted with the secretary of the State Chaplains Asserted wit



Major James N. Connolly.





BAL TABARIN Bal Tabarin Under Way.

With the engagement of Gilda Gray of the Shubert Galeties as entertainer in chief at the Bal Tabarin, in the Winter Garden Theatre building, that home of mirth and melody has taken a stride far in advance of its rivals along at this popular place continues at capacity and tables are nightly at a

Tinkling music that just won't let one be still, a dance floor that knows no peer and food of an unexcelled maker, "under the habitual criminal one of the most popular resorts of its kind in town.

### Greenwich Village Mill.

The Greenwich Village Mill, one o New York city in a row that began the most interesting show places of change, "Giblin fooled the Governor the 1919 season to an enthusiastic and got a pardon," said Shoemaker, "by crowd of "villagers" and "uptowners" cating soap. It made him awfully thin and they believed he was going to die," dining room.

dened by Gov. Roosevelt August 23, Mill were agreeably surprised at the 1900, on representation of his mother high quality and refreshing unusualthan if released he would go back to ness of the entertainment which changed that morning from straw to Germany to get a \$17,000 windfall, to marked the opening night. The most felt and then had forgotten all about it.

clever of the village entertainers were there—and they were at their wittlest

and gentlemen. The fair sex received cabbage, celery and turnips, a unique little metal vanity case in Policeman Hammer says

ates the place.

### THE OLD GENTLEMAN'S HAT.

TICE old gentleman in the restau His dinner finished, he picked up his passers by to think they have the creant any of us catch back of him and took down his hat, or the hat he had no doubt was his, but duty soon puts a stop to this, as he when from force of habit he looked inside of it to make sure he found that it beds from the windows near his desk. wasn't his hat at all!

and tried the next most likely one, but with the same result, and it was the

But then, to leave no stone unthat was the hat he was really looking these flowers if I like." r; that black derby hat he was now ooking into was his very own.

when Giblin accused her husband of New York's world famed artists' for what he was looking for was a that he was trespassing on city prop-giving him a counterfeit bill in making colony, opened its doors last night for straw. "What are you trying to hand me?" turned, he took down that black derby said the citizen. "This is public prop. nature," said he, "Sea

changed that morning from straw to minion of the law.

"That's the best I've heard in a long fines us to the city."